

PENINSULA COLLEGE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Dental Hygiene students are required to continually meet the Technical Standards while in the program.

INTRODUCTION

Certain functional abilities are essential for the delivery of safe, effective dental hygiene care. These abilities are essential in the sense that they constitute core components of dental hygiene practice, and there is a high probability that negative consequences will result for patients/clients under the care of dental hygienists who fail to demonstrate these abilities. A program preparing students for the practice of dental hygiene must attend to these essential functional abilities in the education and evaluation of its students.

This statement of the Technical Standards of the dental hygiene program at Peninsula College identifies the functional abilities deemed by the dental hygiene faculty to be essential to the practice of dental hygiene. The Technical Standards are reflected in the dental hygiene program's performance-based outcomes, which are the basis for teaching and evaluating all dental hygiene students.

Students with disabilities who think they may require accommodation in meeting the Technical Standards of the dental hygiene program should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to discuss the process of identifying reasonable accommodations. Students should seek accommodation advising as soon as possible so that a plan for accommodation can be in place at the beginning of the program. Applicants seeking admission to the dental hygiene program who may have questions about the Technical Standards and appropriate reasonable accommodations are invited to discuss their questions with Services for Students with Disabilities. Reasonable accommodation will be directed toward providing an equal educational opportunity for students with disabilities while adhering to the standards of dental hygiene practice for all students.

QUALIFICATIONS

The practice of dental hygiene requires the following functional abilities with or without reasonable accommodation:

- Ability to communicate sufficiently to teach others, explain procedures, interact effectively with others in a professional manner, and convey information both verbally and in writing.
- Visual acuity sufficient to assess patients to implement dental hygiene care plans that are developed from such assessments. This includes the ability to detect changes in intra- and extra-oral tissue changes, the ability to collect data from recording instruments, discern correct working end of instruments, and the ability to correctly read handwritten orders and chart notes to provide safe patient care.
- Hearing ability sufficient to assess patients to implement the dental hygiene care plans that are developed from such assessments. This includes the ability to detect sounds using a



stethoscope and detect and interpret various equipment signals generated by mechanical systems used in dentistry.

- Tactile ability sufficient to assess patients and to implement the dental hygiene care plans that are developed from such assessments. This includes changes in skin temperature, the ability to detect unsafe temperature levels in heat-producing devices used in patient care, the ability to detect anatomical abnormalities, such as crepitus, edema, and masses in the head and neck areas.
- Strength, mobility, and balance sufficient to perform patient care activities and emergency procedures. This includes the ability to perform one-man CPR/Basic Life Support (BLS) and stand or sit for extensive periods of time.
- Fine motor skills sufficient to perform psychomotor skills integral to patient care. This includes the ability to safely dispose of needles in sharps containers, the dexterity and ability to manipulate small instrument cutting edges to provide safe and effective patient care, accurately place and maintain the position of the stethoscope for detecting sounds.
- Physical endurance sufficient to complete assigned periods of clinical practice.
- Emotional stability to function effectively under stress and emergency situations, to adapt to changing situations, and to follow through on assigned patient care responsibilities.
- Cognitive ability to collect, analyze, and integrate information and knowledge to make clinical judgements and manage decisions that promote positive patient outcomes. This includes the ability to think analytically to transfer knowledge from one situation to another, problem-solve, prioritize tasks and use long-term and short-term memory.

DENTAL HYGIENE TECHNICAL STANDARDS SELF-CHECKLIST

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to Communicate | <input type="checkbox"/> Fine Motor Skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Acuity | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Endurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Acuity | <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional Stability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tactile Ability | <input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive Ability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strength, Mobility & Balance | |